

# UNCLASSIFIED 4/27/77 Department of State

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

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STATE 105887

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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DDE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-15  
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APPROVED BY ARA/ECA:CHRUZER

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R 270611Z APR 79  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

UNCLAS STATE 105887

E.O. 12065 N/A

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN STATEMENTS AND GUIDANCE  
APRIL 24 AND 25

1. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS TEXT OF REMARKS MADE  
AT NOON BRIEFING ON APRIL 24 CONCERNING RIGHT OF OPTION  
PROGRAM:

QUOTE: Q. HODDING, CAN YOU SHED ANY LIGHT ON THIS REPORT  
IN THE POST ABOUT WHY SO FEW SOUTH-AMERICAN, POLITICAL  
EXILES HAVE COME TO THE U.S.?

A. WELL, THE REPORT HAD SEVERAL COMPONENTS TO IT. YOU ARE

TALKING ABOUT THE PAROLE POSSIBILITY?

Q. YES. THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE.

A. THE ONE FACT IN THAT STORY WHICH IS CORRECT IS THAT ONLY  
TWO PERSONS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTI-  
NA TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE PROGRAM. THE  
FAILURE OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO COOPERATE FULLY IN  
IMPLEMENTING THIS PROGRAM HAS PRODUCED DISAPPOINTING  
RESULTS THUS FAR. BUT WHILE WE ARE DISAPPOINTED BY THE  
RESULTS, WE THINK IT IS PREMATURE TO CALL THE PROGRAM A  
FAILURE.

THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS WHO HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED BY U.S.  
OFFICIALS THUS FAR IS NOW SUBSTANTIAL. THE EXPECTATION  
OR THE HOPE, AND CERTAINLY WHAT WE CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR,  
IS THAT MANY OF THESE PRISONERS THAT WE HAVE INTERVIEWED  
WILL BE RELEASED UNDER THE RIGHT OF OPTION TO COME TO THE  
UNITED STATES UNDER OUR PAROLE PROGRAM.

THE PROGRAM WAS APPROVED IN JUNE, 1978. THE FIRST  
INTERVIEWS WERE CONDUCTED IN NOVEMBER, 1978. SINCE THAT  
TIME 114 DETAINEES HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED BY U.S. OFFICIALS  
OUT OF OUR CONSULAR OFFICE THERE.

PERMISSION HAS JUST BEEN RECEIVED TO INTERVIEW 25 MORE.  
NINETY-SEVEN OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED HAVE BEEN  
APPROVED FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES. WE REGRET  
THAT THE ARGENTINE OFFICIALS HAD NOT PROCESSED THESE  
APPLICATIONS MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY.

LET ME JUST SAY ONE OTHER THING FOR THE RECORD. IT IS  
SIMPLY NOT CORRECT TO SAY, AS WAS REPORTED IN THE STORY,

THAT AMBASSADOR CASTRO IS UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROGRAM.  
HE HAS VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED IT, AND HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY  
VIGOROUS IN APPROACHING THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ABOUT  
RELEASING THOSE PRISONERS WHO HAVE INDICATED THEY WANT TO  
COME TO THE UNITED STATES. END QUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION ISGUIDANCE PREPARED  
FOR NOON BRIEFING APRIL 25, CONCERNING ARREST OF LAEOR  
LEADERS (NO QUESTIONS ASKED):

QUOTE: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE ARGENTINE GOVERN-  
MENT'S ARREST OF 20 UNION LEADERS THE NIGHT BEFORE LAST?

A. THE DETENTION OF TRADE UNION LEADERS FOR, ACCORDING  
TO AN ARGENTINE LABOR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE, ANNOUNCING  
PLANS TO CALL A STRIKE IS AN INFRINGEMENT OF INTER-  
NATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED UNION RIGHTS AND IS THEREFORE A  
MATTER OF CONCERN TO US. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THIS  
SITUATION CLOSELY AND HOPE THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT  
WILL RELEASE THE DETAINED LEADERS PROMPTLY. END QUOTE. VANCE

*[Handwritten signature]*

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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